

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5599
ANSWERED ON 27.03.2026

PROMOTION OF MARITIME HERITAGE AND CULTURE

5599. SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE:
SHRI ATUL GARG:
SHRI RAVINDRA DATTARAM WAIKAR:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government is promoting maritime heritage and culture to raise awareness about shipping history of the country, State-wise including Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the objectives of such initiatives in fostering interest in maritime careers and marine industries;
- (c) whether any assessments have been made on benefits for local communities, tourism and skill development, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the mechanisms put in place to monitor the effectiveness of maritime awareness programmes; and
- (e) the expected impact on industry participation, heritage conservation and economic opportunities in coastal regions of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has envisaged development of a National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat to showcase India's maritime heritage. The development plan of the NMHC includes individual coastal States pavilions including Maharashtra to present their maritime heritage and culture and also an inland waterways pavilion to depict the cultural and historical significance of river navigation system including those in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The NMHC is intended to promote awareness of maritime heritage, provide a platform for exhibitions and stakeholders engagement and facilitate dissemination of knowledge relating to maritime activities and related sectors with a view to fostering interest in maritime careers and marine industries.

(c) As per projections, the NMHC has the potential to generate 22,000 jobs including 15,000 direct and 7,000 indirect jobs across sectors such as construction and infrastructure, tourism and hospitality, transportation, local trade and ancillary services. The project also includes development of a maritime research institute for maritime research and training for skill development in maritime sector.

(d) The NMHC society has been constituted and an institutional mechanism has been placed to monitor the effectiveness of the programmes undertaken by it. The mechanism consists of Governing Council headed by Minister in-charge of MoPSW, Steering Committee headed by Secretary of MoPSW and NMHC Board headed by Director General of NMHC Society.

(e) The project is envisaged to promote industry participation through partnerships including Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode while supporting heritage conservation and facilitating economic activity. It is expected to contribute to livelihood opportunities particularly through promotion of tourism and local crafts and services, thereby supporting inclusive development.
